



Your business  
is our business.

REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

7852 Walker Drive, Suite 200  
Greenbelt, Maryland 20770  
phone: 301-459-7590, fax: 301-577-5575  
internet: www.jsitel.com, e-mail: jsi@jsitel.com

June 24, 2015

ACCEPTED/FILED

JUN 24 2015

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

**Via Hand Delivery**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58  
2015 ETC Annual Report of Highland Telephone Cooperative (TN)  
Study Area Code 290565**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On behalf of Highland Telephone Cooperative (TN) ("Highland"), JSI files the attached confidential and redacted versions of the FCC Form 481 ETC annual reporting information pursuant to sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules.<sup>1</sup> Highland seeks confidential treatment under Protective Order for section 54.313(f)(2) financial information.<sup>2</sup> The redacted version is also being filed this date via the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System. In addition, attached is a letter requesting confidential treatment under Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of its Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan as required by Section 54.313(a)(1).<sup>3</sup>

Please direct any questions regarding the filing to the undersigned.

Sincerely,

John Kuykendall  
JSI Vice President  
301-459-7590  
[jkuykendall@jsitel.com](mailto:jkuykendall@jsitel.com)

cc: Charles Tyler, Telecommunications Access Policy Division (two copies, confidential)

No. of Copies rec'd 0 + 3  
List ABCDE

<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

<sup>2</sup> *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket No. 10-90 *et al.*, Protective Order, DA 12-1857 rel. Nov. 16, 2012 (Protective Order). 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(f)(2).

<sup>3</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459, 54.313(a)(1).

Echelon Building II, Suite 200  
9430 Research Blvd., Austin, TX 78759  
phone: 512-338-0473, fax: 512-346-0822

Eagandale Corporate Center, Suite 310  
1380 Corporate Center Curve, Eagan, MN 55121  
phone: 651-452-2660, fax: 651-452-1909

6849 Peachtree Dunwoody Road  
Bldg. B-3, Suite 200, Atlanta, GA 30328  
phone: 770-569-2105, fax: 770-410-1608

547 South Oakview Lane  
Bountiful, UT 84010  
phone: 801-294-4576, fax: 801-294-5124



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Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: WC Docket No. 14-58  
2015 ETC Annual Report of Highland Telephone Cooperative (TN)  
Study Area Code 290565  
Request for Confidentiality**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

John Staurulakis, Inc. ("JSI"), on behalf of its client Highland Telephone Cooperative (TN) ("Company") hereby requests, pursuant to Sections 0.457 and 0.459 of the Commission's rules,<sup>1</sup> withholding from public inspection certain information contained in an attachment to the above referenced reporting requirement. The Company provides the following in support of its request, numbered consistent with the subparagraphs of Section 0.459(b).<sup>2</sup>

1. The information for which the Company is seeking confidential treatment is an attachment to the Company's annual reporting information pursuant to Sections 54.313 and 54.422 of the Commission's rules ("Report").<sup>3</sup>
2. Pursuant to Section 54.313(a)(1), Rate-of-Return Eligible Telecommunications Carriers ("ETCs") must file with the Commission a Progress Report on its Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan ("Progress Report") which is contained in the attachment to the 2015 Report.<sup>4</sup>
3. The information contained in attachment for which the Company seeks the withholding from public inspection is the entirety of data pertaining to the Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment. Information of this nature is confidential commercial information routinely withheld from public inspection.

<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 0.457, 0.459.

<sup>2</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 0.459(b)(1) through (9).

<sup>3</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313, 54.422.

<sup>4</sup> 47 C.F.R. §§ 54.313(a)(1).

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4. With respect to identifying the degree to which the subject attachment concerns a service that is subject to competition, the information is of a financial and competitive nature regarding the provision of telecommunications services. The Line 112 attachment contains competitively sensitive information related to proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance the Company's network.

In its *March 5, 2013 Order*, the FCC. The FCC specified that for rate-of-return carriers, the five-year plans "should describe the carrier's network improvement plan, which should provide greater visibility into current plans to extend broadband service to unserved locations in rate-of-return service territories."<sup>5</sup> The Company's Progress Report updates this information as well as provides maps and detailed information as to whether or not network improvement objectives were achieved at the wire center level. Accordingly, because the Company is a rate-of-return carrier, it must file Progress Reports which contain proprietary, competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network including the specific locations of customers as well as describe proposed improvements or upgrades and maintenance of its network throughout its service area. Specifically, this information sets forth services provided by the Company over its existing network including specific locations of customers as well as planned network improvement and maintenance for the years 2015 through 2019 including project start and completion dates, population that will be impacted by the improvements and upgrades at the wire center level and projected capital costs associated with the improvements and upgrades and operating costs associated with maintaining the network including depreciation for investments that have already been made. As such, this information contains competitively sensitive information related to the Company's existing network as well as detailed plans at the wire center level for network upgrades and maintenance projected for the years 2015 through 2019.

5. With respect to identifying possible exposure to competitive harm, the information contained in the Line 112 attachment is information that is not customarily released to the public. This information is proprietary to the Company, is unique to the Company's serving territory and is only known to the Company and its authorized agents. If the Information is not protected, it would have economic value to potential competitors who would be able to target their marketing to specific customers. In a competitive telecommunications marketplace, this type of information is highly sensitive. If publicly disclosed, it would enable competitors to craft business plans that capitalize on their knowledge of the locations of the Company's customers which would place the Company at a competitive disadvantage.

---

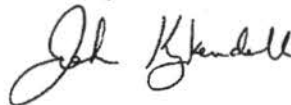
<sup>5</sup> See *Connect America Fund et al.*, WC Docket 10-90 *et al.*, Order, DA 13-332 (rel. Mar. 5, 2013) ("*March 5, 2013 Order*") at para 9 citing Section 54.202(a) (1) (ii).

6. With respect to steps the Company has taken to ensure against unauthorized disclosure of the information contained in the attachment, the Company is filing the attachment under seal. The Company uses the information contained in the Five-Year Plan to ensure that its customers continue to receive state-of-the-art high quality telecommunications and broadband services that the Company has been providing to them for many years as well as to satisfy mandatory reporting requirements and does not share the information for which protection is sought. The Company protects the secrecy of this information with a security protocol that ensures the information is not inadvertently disclosed or disseminated. Only directors, managers and employees with a direct need to know are authorized to access the information.
7. Any previous versions of this information are not publicly available.
8. Because the information is not routinely available, a need exists for maintaining the confidentiality of this information permanently.
9. Not applicable.

Based on the preceding, JSI respectfully requests on behalf of the Company that the Commission grant confidential treatment under Section 0.459 to Company's Five-Year Plan provided at FCC Form 481 Line 112 attachment.

Please contact the undersigned with any questions regarding this request.

Sincerely,



John Kuykendall  
JSI Vice President  
301-459-7590  
[jkuykendall@jsitel.com](mailto:jkuykendall@jsitel.com)



<010> Study Area Code 290565  
<015> Study Area Name HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN  
<020> Program Year 2016  
<030> Contact Name: Person USAC should contact with questions about this data Dave Crawford  
<035> Contact Telephone Number: 4236282750 ext.280  
Number of the person identified in data line <030>  
<039> Contact Email Address: dave@highlandtel.net  
Email of the person identified in data line <030>

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JUN 24 2015

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary

## ANNUAL REPORTING FOR ALL CARRIERS

94.813 Completion Required  
54.423 Completion Required

(check box when complete)

<100> Service Quality Improvement Reporting	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<200> Outage Reporting (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<210> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <-- check box if no outages to report		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<300> Unfulfilled Service Requests (voice) 0		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<310> Detail on Attempts (voice)	(attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<320> Unfulfilled Service Requests (broadband) 0		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<330> Detail on Attempts (broadband)	(attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<400> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (voice)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<410> Fixed 0.0		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<420> Mobile 0.0		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<430> Number of Complaints per 1,000 customers (broadband)		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<440> Fixed 0.0		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<450> Mobile 0.0		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<500> Service Quality Standards & Consumer Protection Rules Compliance	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<510> 290565TN510.pdf	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<600> Functionality in Emergency Situations	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<610> 290565TN610.pdf	(attached descriptive document)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<700> Company Price Offerings (voice)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<710> Company Price Offerings (broadband)	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<800> Operating Companies and Affiliates	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<900> Tribal Land Offerings (Y/N)?	(if yes, complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1000> Voice Services Rate Comparability Certification	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1010>	(attach descriptive document)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1100> Certify whether terrestrial backhaul options exist (Yes or No)	(if not, check to indicate certification)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1110>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<1200> Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Price Cap Carriers, Proceed to Price Cap Additional Documentation Worksheet

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

<2000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<2005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

## Rate of Return Carriers, Proceed to ROR Additional Documentation Worksheet

<3000>	(check to indicate certification)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<3005>	(complete attached worksheet)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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**(100) Service Quality Improvement Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

**<110> Has your company received its ETC certification from the FCC?** (yes / no) ☐ ☒

If your answer to Line <110> is yes, do you have an existing §54.202(a) "5

**<111> year plan" filed with the FCC?** (yes / no) ☐ ☐

If your answer to Line <111> is yes, then you are required to file a progress report, on line <112> delineating the status of your company's existing § 54.202(a) "5 year plan" on file with the FCC, as it relates to your provision of voice telephony service.

<112> Attach Five-Year Service Quality Improvement Plan or, in subsequent years, your annual progress report filed pursuant to 47 C.F.R. § 54.313(a)(1). If your company is a CETC which only receives frozen support, your progress report is only required to address voice telephony service.

290565TN112.pdf

Name of Attached Document

Please select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 112, contains a progress report on its five-year service quality improvement plan pursuant to §54.202(a). The information shall be submitted at the wire center level or census block as appropriate.

- <113> Maps detailing progress towards meeting plan targets
- <114> Report how much universal service (USF) support was received
- <115> How much (USF) was used to improve service quality and how support was used to improve service quality
- <116> How much (USF) was used to improve service coverage and how support was used to improve service coverage
- <117> How much (USF) was used to improve service capacity and how support was used to improve service capacity
- <118> Provide an explanation of network improvement targets not met in the prior calendar year.

Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Yes
Not Applicable

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(200) Service Outage Reporting (Voice)  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

[illegible]



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(700) Price Offerings Including Voice Rate Data  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 431

OMB Control No. 3060-0988/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date  
<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

1/1/2015

<703>

[illegible]



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(710) Broadband Price Offerings  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

[illegible]

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(800) Operating Companies  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net
<810>	Reporting Carrier	Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.
<811>	Holding Company	Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (KY & TN)
<812>	Operating Company	Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

[illegible]

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(900) Tribal Lands Reporting  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

**July 2013**

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

<910> Tribal Land(s) on which ETC Serves

**<920> Tribal Government Engagement Obligation**

Name of Attached Document

If your company serves Tribal lands, please select (Yes, No, NA) for each these boxes to confirm the status described on the attached document(s), on line 920, demonstrates coordination with the Tribal government pursuant to § 54.313(a)(9) includes:

- <921> Needs assessment and deployment planning with a focus on Tribal community anchor institutions.
- <922> Feasibility and sustainability planning;
- <923> Marketing services in a culturally sensitive manner;
- <924> Compliance with Rights of way processes
- <925> Compliance with Land Use permitting requirements
- <926> Compliance with Facilities Siting rules
- <927> Compliance with Environmental Review processes
- <928> Compliance with Cultural Preservation review processes
- <929> Compliance with Tribal Business and Licensing requirements.

[illegible]



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**(1100) No Terrestrial Backhaul Reporting  
Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

<1120> Please confirm whether terrestrial backhaul options exist within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g) (Yes, No).

<1130> Please select the appropriate response (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to confirm the reporting carrier offers broadband service of at least 1 Mbps downstream and 256 kbps upstream within the supported area pursuant to § 54.313(g).

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**(1200) Terms and Condition for Lifeline Customers**  
**Lifeline**  
**Data Collection Form**

FCC Form 481  
 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
 July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

290565TN1210.pdf

<1210> Terms & Conditions of Voice Telephony Lifeline Plans

Name of Attached Document

<1220> Link to Public Website

HTTP

"Please check these boxes below to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 1210, or the website listed, on line 1220, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.422(a)(2) annual reporting for ETCs receiving low-income support, carriers must annually report:

- |        |   |                                     |
|--------|---|-------------------------------------|
| <1221> | Information describing the terms and conditions of any voice telephony service plans offered to Lifeline subscribers, | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1222> | Details on the number of minutes provided as part of the plan,  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |
| <1223> | Additional charges for toll calls, and rates for each such plan.  | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> |

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(2000) Price Cap Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

Including Rate-of-Return Carriers affiliated with Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-1W
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4230282750 ext. 280
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

Select the appropriate responses below (Yes, No, Not Applicable) to note compliance as a recipient of Incremental Connect America Phase I support, frozen High Cost support, High Cost support to offset access charge reductions, and Connect America Phase II support as set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(b),(c),(d),(e). The information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

Incremental Connect America Phase I reporting

- <2010> 2nd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)i)  
 <2011a> 3rd Year Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)  
 <2011b> Attachment (47 CFR § 54.313(b)(1)ii)


Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information

Price Cap Carrier Receiving Frozen Support Certification (47 CFR § 54.312(a))

- <2012> 2013 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(1))  
 <2013> 2014 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(2))  
 <2014> 2015 Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(3))  
 <2015> 2016 and future Frozen Support Calculation (47 CFR § 54.313(c)(4))


Price Cap Carrier Connect America ICC Support (47 CFR § 54.313(d))

- <2016> Certification Support Used to Build Broadband

--

Connect America Phase II Reporting (47 CFR § 54.313(e))

- <2017> 3rd year Broadband Service Certification  
 <2018> 5th year Broadband Service Certification  
 <2019> Interim Progress Certification  
 <2020> Please check the box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 2021, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (e)(3)(ii), as a recipient of CAF Phase II support shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year.


- <2021> Interim Progress Community Anchor Institutions


Name of Attached Document(s) Listing Required Information



[3000] Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation

Data Collection Form

Form 443

OMB Control No. 3060-0835/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code 290565  
 <015> Study Area Name HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN  
 <020> Program Year 2016  
 <030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data Dave Crawford  
 <035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030> 4236282750 ext. 280  
 <039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030> dave@highlandtel.net

CHECK the boxes below to note compliance on its five year service quality plan (pursuant to 47 CFR § 54.202(a)) and, for privately held carriers, ensuring compliance with the financial reporting requirements set forth in 47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2). I further certify that the information reported on this form and in the documents attached below is accurate.

(3010) Progress Report on 5 Year Plan  
 Milestone Certification (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(i))

290565TN3010.pdf

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3011) Please check this box to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3012 contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313 (f)(1)(ii), the carrier shall provide the number, names, and addresses of community anchor institutions to which began providing access to broadband service in the preceding calendar year. ☒

290565TN3012.pdf

(3012) Community Anchor Institutions (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(1)(ii))

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3013) Is your company a Privately Held ROR Carrier (47 CFR § 54.313(f)(2))

(Yes/No)

(3014) If yes, does your company file the RUS annual report

(Yes/No)

Please check these boxes to confirm that the attached document(s), on line 3017, contains the required information pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2) compliance requires:

(3015) Electronic copy of their annual RUS reports (Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers) ☒

(3016) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows ☒

290565TN3017.pdf

(3017) If the response is yes on line 3014, attach your company's RUS annual report and all required documentation

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

(3018) If the response is no on line 3014, Is your company audited?

(Yes/No)

If the response is yes on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains

(3019) Either a copy of their audited financial statement; or (2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications ☐

(3020) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows ☐

(3021) Management letter and audit opinion issued by the independent certified public accountant that performed the company's financial audit ☐

If the response is no on line 3018, please check the boxes below to confirm your submission, on line 3026 pursuant to § 54.313(f)(2), contains:

(3022) Copy of their financial statement which has been subject to review by an independent certified public accountant; or 2) a financial report in a format comparable to RUS Operating Report for Telecommunications Borrowers, ☐

(3023) Underlying information subjected to a review by an independent certified public accountant ☐

(3024) Underlying information subjected to an officer certification. ☐

(3025) Document(s) for Balance Sheet, Income Statement and Statement of Cash Flows ☐

(3026) Attach the worksheet listing required information

Name of Attached Document Listing Required Information

## (3000) Rate Of Return Carrier Additional Documentation (Continued)

Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481

OMB Control No. 3080-0086 OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010> Study Area Code	290565
<015> Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext. 280
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

## Financial Data Summary

(3027) Revenue

(3028) Operating Expenses

(3029) Net Income

(3030) Telephone Plant In Service(TPIS)

(3031) Total Assets

(3032) Total Debt

(3033) Total Equity

(3034) Dividends

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

<b>Certification - Reporting Carrier Data Collection Form</b>	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	290565
<015> Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext.280
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF THE REPORTING CARRIER IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTING ON ITS OWN BEHALF:

<b>Certification of Officer as to the Accuracy of the Data Reported for the Annual Reporting for CAF or LI Recipients</b>	
I certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual reporting requirements for universal service support recipients; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported on this form and in any attachments is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	
Signature of Authorized Officer:	Date
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	Filing Due Date for this form:
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	



Certification - Agent / Carrier Data Collection Form	FCC Form 481 OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819 July 2013
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<010> Study Area Code	290565
<015> Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020> Program Year	2016
<030> Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035> Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282750 ext. 280
<039> Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE REPORTING CARRIER, IF AN AGENT IS FILING ANNUAL REPORTS ON THE CARRIER'S BEHALF:

Certification of Officer to Authorize an Agent to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I certify that (Name of Agent) <u>JSI</u> is authorized to submit the information reported on behalf of the reporting carrier. I also certify that I am an officer of the reporting carrier; my responsibilities include ensuring the accuracy of the annual data reporting requirements provided to the authorized agent; and, to the best of my knowledge, the reports and data provided to the authorized agent is accurate.	
Name of Authorized Agent:	JSI
Name of Reporting Carrier:	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
Signature of Authorized Officer:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/23/2015
Printed name of Authorized Officer:	Greg Patterson
Title or position of Authorized Officer:	Chief Operating Officer
Telephone number of Authorized Officer:	4236282121 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	290565 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE AUTHORIZED AGENT:

Certification of Agent Authorized to File Annual Reports for CAF or LI Recipients on Behalf of Reporting Carrier	
I, as agent for the reporting carrier, certify that I am authorized to submit the annual reports for universal service support recipients on behalf of the reporting carrier; I have provided the data reported herein based on data provided by the reporting carrier; and, to the best of my knowledge, the information reported herein is accurate.	
Name of Reporting Carrier:	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
Name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	JSI
Signature of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	CERTIFIED ONLINE Date: 06/23/2015
Printed name of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Tanea Davis Foglia
Title or position of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	Manager - Regulatory Affairs
Telephone number of Authorized Agent or Employee of Agent:	3014597590 ext.
Study Area Code of Reporting Carrier:	290565 Filing Due Date for this form: 07/01/2015
Persons willfully making false statements on this form can be punished by fine or forfeiture under the Communications Act of 1934, 47 U.S.C. §§ 502, 503(b), or fine or imprisonment under Title 18 of the United States Code, 18 U.S.C. § 1001.	

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

## Attachments

**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 112**

**Five-Year Network Improvement Plan and  
Progress Report**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**



**Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc.'s demonstration of complying with applicable service quality standards and consumer protection rules for voice and broadband services:**

In establishing this certification in its *2005 ETC Order*,<sup>1</sup> the FCC found that an ETC must make "a specific commitment to objective measures to protect consumers."<sup>2</sup> The Commission found that for wireless ETCs, compliance with CTIA's Consumer Code for Wireless Service would satisfy this requirement" and that the sufficiency of other commitments would be considered on a case-by-case basis.<sup>3</sup> In this context, the FCC stated, "to the extent a wireline or wireless ETC applicant is subject to consumer protection obligations under state law, compliance with such laws may meet our requirement."<sup>4</sup>

As a Cooperative, and in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65 Public Utilities and Carriers, Chapter 29 Telephone Cooperatives, Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Highland") is not governed by the Rules of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA") for service quality standards and consumer protection rules. However, Highland, in the interest of protecting its own customers, has incorporated consumer protection procedures comparable to those required of incumbent LECs in the State of Tennessee, allowing Highland to meet or exceed existing TRA rules. These procedures include, but are not limited to, the following: (1) publishing the rates, terms, and conditions of service; (2) implementation of anti-slamming and consumer protection procedures; (3) modeling bill presentation to reflect the truth-in-billing requirements;

<sup>1</sup> *Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*, CC Docket No. 96-45, Report and Order, FCC 05-46 (rel. Mar. 17, 2005) ("*2005 ETC Order*").

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at para. 28.

<sup>3</sup> *Id.* The FCC noted that under the CTIA Consumer Code, wireless carriers agree to: "(1) disclose rates and terms of service to customers; (2) make available maps showing where service is generally available; (3) provide contract terms to customers and confirm changes in service; (4) allow a trial period for new service; (5) provide specific disclosures in advertising; (6) separately identify carrier charges from taxes on billing statements; (7) provide customers the right to terminate service for changes to contract terms; (8) provide ready access to customer service; (9) promptly respond to consumer inquiries and complaints received from government agencies; and (10) abide by policies for protection of consumer privacy." *Id.* at n. 71.

<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at n. 72.

and (4) CPNI, Red Flag Rules, and other applicable federal requirements governing the protection of customers' privacy.

Highland is subject to consumer protection obligations for broadband services under federal law. These obligations include, but are not limited to, the following: public disclosure of accurate information regarding network management practices, performance, and commercial terms of broadband internet access services; as a means of providing sufficient information for consumers to make informed choices regarding use of such services, and for content, application, service and device providers to develop, market, and maintain internet offerings as specified in 47 CFR § 8.3. The Company furthermore will comply with all requirements set forth in the 2015 *Open Internet Order* when it becomes effective.

**Highland Telephone Cooperative's demonstration of ability to function in emergency situations for voice and broadband services:**

Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. ("Highland") hereby certifies that it is able to function in emergency situations as set forth in 47 C.F.R. § 54.202(a)(2)<sup>1</sup>. Highland's network is designed to remain functional in emergency situations without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations as required by Section 54.202(a)(2). Highland can change call routing translations as needed to reroute traffic around damaged facilities. Changing call routing translations will also allow Highland to manage traffic spikes throughout its network, as emergency situations require. In addition, Highland has redundancy for connectivity purposes *via* additional routes and electronic equipment for voice and broadband services.

As a Cooperative, and in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 65 Public Utilities and Carriers, Chapter 29 Telephone Cooperatives, Highland is not governed by the Rules of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority ("TRA"), Chapter 1220-4-2-.23 Emergency Operation. However, in compliance with Federal emergency situation rules, Highland's central offices have adequate provisions for emergency power, a condition allowing them to meet or exceed existing TRA rules for emergency operations. Specifically, each central office building is supplied with standby generators and battery back-up that enable the central office to keep running until power is restored so long as fuel is available, or until system changes are made to reroute traffic. Highland has battery backup at all office locations and in its electronic equipment sites. Length of run time is

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<sup>1</sup> Section 54.202(a)(2) requires ETCs that are designated by the Commission to "demonstrate its ability to remain functional in emergency situations, including a demonstration that it has a reasonable amount of back-up power to ensure functionality without an external power source, is able to reroute traffic around damaged facilities, and is capable of managing traffic spikes resulting from emergency situations."



determined by the equipment serving the area and the number of customers working out of the equipment. Generators are installed at all Central Office locations. They will continue to run as long as Highland has access to fuel.

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

**(700) Price Offerings Including Voice Rate Data  
Data Collection Form**

FCS Form 481

OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819

July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282161 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

<701> Residential Local Service Charge Effective Date  
<702> Single State-wide Residential Local Service Charge

1/1/2015

<703>

[illegible]

REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings  
Data Collection Form

FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0986/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
<015>	Study Area Name	HIGHLAND TEL COOP-TN
<020>	Program Year	2016
<030>	Contact Name - Person USAC should contact regarding this data	Dave Crawford
<035>	Contact Telephone Number - Number of person identified in data line <030>	4236282161 ext.
<039>	Contact Email Address - Email Address of person identified in data line <030>	dave@highlandtel.net

<711>	<a1>	<a2>	<b1>	<b2>	<c>	<d1>	<d2>	<d3>	<d4>
	State	Exchange (ILEC)	Residential Rate	State Regulated Fees	Total Rates and Fees	Broadband Service - Download Speed (Mbps)	Broadband Service - Upload Speed (Mbps)	Usage Allowance (GB)	Usage Allowance Action Taken When Limit Reached (select)
	TN	Huntsville	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Oneida	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Robbins	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Deer Lodge	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Sunbright	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Wartburg	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Petros	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Oakdale	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	KY	Stearns-Whitley City	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	KY	Pine Knot	30.0	0.0	30.0	5.0	1.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Huntsville	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Oneida	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Robbins	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Deer Lodge	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Sunbright	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Wartburg	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Petros	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Oakdale	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	KY	Stearns-Whitley City	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	KY	Pine Knot	68.0	0.0	68.0	10.0	2.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance
	TN	Huntsville	106.0	0.0	106.0	20.0	3.0	999999.0	Other, No limit on usage allowance



REDACTED FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION

(710) Broadband Price Offerings Data Collection Form FCC Form 481  
OMB Control No. 3060-0985/OMB Control No. 3060-0819  
July 2013

<010>	Study Area Code	290565
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[illegible]

# GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF LIFELINE

Highland Telephone Cooperative  
Incorporated

PSC 2  
Part II  
2<sup>nd</sup> Revised Sheet 16

## D.8.1 Description of Service

D.8.1.1 The Lifeline program is designed to increase the availability of telecommunications services to low income subscribers by providing a credit to monthly recurring local service for qualifying residential subscribers. Basic terms and conditions are in compliance with the FCC's Order on Universal Service in CC Docket 97-157, which adopts the Feder-State Joint Board recommendation in CC Docket 96-45, which complies with the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Specific terms and conditions are as prescribed by the Kentucky Public Service Commission and are set forth in this tariff.

D.8.1.2 Lifeline is supported by the federal universal service support mechanism.

D.8.1.3 Federal baseline support is available for each Lifeline service and is passed through to the subscriber. The amount of credit will not exceed the charge for local service, which includes the access line, the Subscriber Line Charge and local usage. (T)

D.8.1.4 The State Universal Service fund will be funded by the Kentucky Public Service Commission. Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc., will bill the charge as prescribed by the KY PSC. The monthly Kentucky Lifeline charge will be as follows: \$0.08 per access line.

## D.8.2 Regulations

### D.8.2.1 General a.

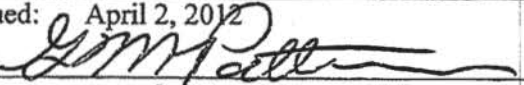
b. One low income credit is available per household and is applicable to the primary residential connection only. (D)

c. A Lifeline customer may subscribe to any local service offering available to other residence customers.

d. Toll blocking, if elected, will be provided at no charge to the Lifeline subscriber.

e. The deposit requirement is not applicable to a lifeline customer who subscribes to toll blocking. If a Lifeline customer removes toll blocking prior to establishing an acceptable credit history, a deposit may be required. When applicable, advance payments will not exceed the connection and local service charges for one month.

Issued: April 2, 2012

By:   
G. Mark Patterson

General Manager

Effective: April 2, 2012

Dated: 5-1-2012  
PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION  
OF KENTUCKY

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GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF  
LIFELINE

Highland Telephone Cooperative  
Incorporated

PSC 2  
Part II  
1<sup>st</sup> Revised Sheet 17

- f. The Federal primary interexchange carrier charge (PICC) will not be billed to Lifeline customers who subscribe to toll blocking and do not presubscribe to a long distance carrier.
- g. A Lifeline subscriber's local service will not be disconnect for non-payment of regulated toll charges. Local service may be denied for non-payment of local and miscellaneous service in accordance with Part I of this Tariff. Access to toll service may be denied for non-payment of regulated tolls. A Lifeline subscriber's request for reconnection of local service will not be denied if the service was previously denied for non-payment of toll charges.
- h. Lifeline is not available for resale.

D.8.2.2 Eligibility

- a. To be eligible for a Lifeline credit, a customer must be a current recipient of any one of the following low income assistance programs, or have income at or below 135 percent of the Federal Poverty Guideline [Note 1].
  - 1. Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
  - 2. Food Stamps
  - 3. Medicaid
  - 4. Federal Public housing/Section 8
  - 5. Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
  - 6. Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF)
  - 7. The National School Lunch Program's Free Lunch Program (NSL)
- b. All applications for service are subject to verification with the state agency responsible for administration of the qualifying program.

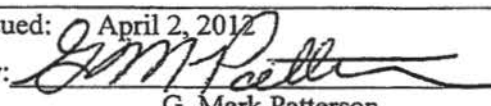
(N)

D.8.2.3 Certification

- a. Proof of eligibility in any of the qualifying low income programs should be provided to the Company at the time application for service. The Lifeline credit will not be established until proof of eligibility has been received by the Company. If the customer requests installation prior to the Company's receipt of proof of eligibility, the requested service will be provided without the Lifeline credit. When eligibility documentation is provided subsequent to installation, the Lifeline credit will be provided on a going forward basis.

[Note 1] This provision is effective June 1, 2012.

Issued: April 2, 2012

By:   
G. Mark Patterson

General Manager

Effective: April 2, 2012

Dated: 5-17-2012  
PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION  
OF KENTUCKY





GENERAL SUBSCRIBER SERVICES TARIFF  
LIFELINE

Highland Telephone Cooperative  
Incorporated

PSC 2  
Part II  
1<sup>st</sup> Revised Sheet 18

- b. Proof of eligibility shall be in the form of an affidavit, certifying under penalty of perjury, that the subscriber is receiving benefits under one of the qualifying programs. It is the customer's responsibility to notify the Company when the customer is no longer participating in any of the qualifying programs.
- c. The Company reserves the right to periodically audit its records, working in conjunction with the appropriate state agencies, for the purpose of determining continuing eligibility. Information obtained during such audit will be treated as confidential information to the extent required under State and Federal laws. The use or disclosure of information concerning enrollees will be limited to purposes directly connected with administration of the Lifeline plan.

D.8.3 Rates and Charges

D.8.3.1 General

- a. Lifeline is provided as amonthly credit on the eligible residential subscriber's access line bill for local service.
- b. Service charges in Part II are applicable for installing or changing Lifelien service.
- c.
- d. Service charges do not apply for converting existing service of Lifeline.

(D)


- D.8.3.2 The Lifeline credit passed through to the customer consists of one Federal baseline credit and one State Universal Service Fund credit per eligible Lifeline customer.

(T)

	Monthly Recurring Through 7/31/2012	Monthly Recurring After 7/31/2012
Federal Baseline Support	\$10.00	\$ 9.25
Kentucky Universal Service Fund Support	\$ 3.50	\$ 3.50
Total credit per eligible Lifeline customer	\$13.50	\$12.75

(R)

Issued: April 2, 2012

By:   
G. Mark Patterson

General Manager

Effective: April 2, 2012

Dated: 5-17-2012  
PUBLIC SERVICE  
COMMISSION  
OF KENTUCKY



**Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (SAC 290565)**

**Response to Line 3010 – Milestone Certification (47 CFR §54.313(f)(1)(i))**

Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. hereby certifies that throughout 2014, it took reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request broadband service at actual speeds of at least 4 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream, and currently, it is taking reasonable steps to provide upon reasonable request actual speeds of at least 10 Mbps downstream/1 Mbps upstream broadband service at with latency suitable for real-time applications, including Voice over Internet Protocol, and usage capacity that is reasonably comparable to comparable offerings in urban areas as determined in an annual survey, and that requests for such service are met within a reasonable amount of time.

**Highland Telephone Cooperative, Inc. (SAC 290565)**

**Response to Line 3012 - List of Community Anchor Institutions to Which the ETC Newly  
Began Providing Service**

The FCC's *USF/ICC Transformation Order* requires a listing of community anchor institutions to which the ETC newly began providing broadband service. Highland Telephone did not newly begin providing community anchor institutions with access to broadband service in calendar year 2014.



**REDACTED – FOR PUBLIC INSPECTION**

**ATTACHMENT - LINE 3017**

**ATTACHMENT REDACTED IN ENTIRETY**